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Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
AID-05 PC-10 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCS-03 SCA-01
OPR-02 /101 W
----------141321Z 023170 /53
O 141200Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2284
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASH DC IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER//ECJ4/7 IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
DIA WASH DC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ECTION 1 OF 2 KINSHASA 2234

PASS PEACE CORPS
USIA FOR IAA, IOP

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, PINS, AEMR, CG, AO
SUBJECT: OPERATION SHABA - SITREP 5

1. FOLLOWING IS FIFTH MISSION-WIDE SURVEY INCLUDING REPORTS FROM LUBUMBASHI:

MILITARY SITUATION:
2. ENEMY FORCES
(A) MISSIONARIES IN SANDOA SAY THAT AS OF AM 14 MARCH,
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SANDOA IS NOT OCCUPIED BY HOSTILE FORCES.
(B) HOSTILE FORCES STILL OCCUPY KAPANGA, DILOLO AND KISENGE.
(C) NEITHER AMERICAN MISSIONARIES NOR SNCZ AUTHORITIES IN SHABA HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OPEN RADIO CONTACT WITH KASAJI 14 MARCH.

3. ZAIRIAN FORCES.
(A) FAZ CONTINUES TO SEND REINFORCEMENTS AND SUPPLIES TO THE

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SHABA REGION. FOUR C-130 SORTIES USING THREE AIRCRAFT AIRLIFTED 2 M-113 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS TO KOLWEZI, FIFTY DRUMS OF JP-1 TO LUBUMBASHI, 40 DRUMS TO KOLWEZI AND 30 TONS OF MUNITIONS TO KOLWEZI. TWO BUFFALOS OPERATING FROM KINSHASA AIRLIFTED 30 DRUMS OF JP-1 TO KANANGA AND MIRAGE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT TO KAMINA.

(B) THREE MACCHIS DEPARTED KINSHASA 13 MARCH TO JOIN FOUR MIRAGES WHICH FLEW TO LUBUMBASHI THE PRECEDING DAY.

(C) THE AIRLIFT OF FAZ TROOPS TO SANDOA ORDERED BY PRESIDENT MOBUTU 12 MARCH WAS NOT EVVECTED DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE ONE BUFFALO OPERATING IN THE AREA WAS OCCUPIED ON OTHER MISSIONS.

(D) CATHOLICS REPORT FALL OF RAILROAD STATION IN KASJI 1100Z MARCH 14. CATHOLIC RADIO IS STILL OPERATING BUT EXPECT TO BE CUT SOON.

DOMESTIC PRESS REACTION:

4. IN FIRST OFFICIAL LOCAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MARCH 11 CLAIM IN PARIS BY CONGOLESE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (FNLC) THAT IS WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR SHABA ATTACKS, ZAIRE PRESS AGENCY (AZAP) MARCH 14 BULLETIN SAYS THE FNLC "WAS CREATED BY STRAYED SONS OF ZAIRE, ETERNAL BEGGARS, WITHOUT PERSONALITY OR DIGNITY WHO LIVE ABROAD UNDER FALSE AND HUMILIATING PRETEXTS." AFTER CRITICIZING THE FRENCH PRESS FOR EVEN PUBLISHING THE FNLC CLAIM, ASAP SAID THE FRENCH SHOULD HAVE REALIZED IT WAS "A BANAL TRACT, CONCEIVED AND PUBLISHED BY STATELESS PERSONS, ETERNAL STUDENTS WHO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CURRENT TROUBLED WATERS TO ATTRACT THE NEWSMAKERS."

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5. "SALONGO" MARCH 14 EDITORIAL -- "THEY SHALL NOT PASS"-- ADOPTS JINGOISTIC STANCE, ATTACKING "INTERNATIONAL POWERS IN LUANDA" OR "SOCIO-IMPERIALISTS" BUT STILL PREACHING BENEFITS OF DIALOGUE. IN CONCLUSION, "SALONGO" EDITORIAL STATES "FOR THE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES RESULTING FROM THIS AGGRESSION OF A BARBAROUS HORDE OF MERCENARIES, ONLY THE LUANDA AUTHORITIES MUST CARRY THE WEIGHT OF THEIR CONSCIENCE BEFORE HISTORY." MARCH 13-14 "ELIMA" HEADLINES ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF MEETING, BUT PROVIDES ONLY BAREST DETAILS. RADIO, TV PLAY UNCHANGED FROM PREVIOUS DAY.

DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION

6. THE GENERAL SITUATION IN KINSHASA REMAINS BUSINESS AS USUAL. THERE ARE REPORTS HOWEVER, THAT ELITE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY ARE BECOMING NERVOUS. ONE HIGH LEVEL ZAIRIAN OFFICIAL STATED PRIVATELY ON MARCH 14 THAT WHILE THE GOZ CONTINUES ITS NORMAL WORK ROUTINE, THERE IS NOTABLE TENSION IN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES. THE POPULATION, THE OFFICIAL REMARKED, HAS BEEN UNHAPPY WITH

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THE MOBUTU REGIME FOR SOME TIME, AND IF THE INVADERS ARE NOT EXPELLED FROM SHABA IN SHORT ORDER, THE PEOPLE OF SHABA AND MUCH OF ZAIRE WILL SWING IN SYMPATHY TOWARDS THE INVADERS. THE SAME OFFICIAL OPINES THAT MORALE IN FAZ WILL NOT SUSTAIN A PROLONGED STALEMATE AT THE FRONT. IN KINSHASA, HE NOTES (CORRECTLY), ZAIRIANS ORIGINALLY FROM SHABA REGION ARE ALREADY BEING REGARDED WITH SOME SUSPICION BY THE GOZ. OTHER MEMBERS OF POLITICAL/ADMINISTRATIVE ELITE HAVE EXPRESSED SIMILAR VIEWS AND HAVE INDICATED THEIR HOPE THAT MOBUTU WILL BE DEPOSED AS THE RESULT OF THE HEIGHTENING POLITICAL TENSION.

7. FROM THE CITE, WE ARE HEARING ONLY LIMITED REACTION, AND THAT MIXED. MANY, WHO ARE UNHAPPY WITH THE MOBUTU REGIME, EXPRESS NO LOVE FOR THE KATANGAN GENDARMES AND SEE THEM AS A THREAT TO THE ZAIRIAN NATION. OTHERS REGARD THE KATANGAN GENDARMES AS AN INTERNAL "CONGOLESE" FORCE WHICH, IF SUCCESSFUL IN SHABA, CAN SERVE AS THE CATALYST FOR LONG AWAITED

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GOVERNMENTAL CHANGE IN KINSHASA. MOST ARE AGREED THAT THE INVADING FORCE ENTERED ZAIRE AT AN APT MOMENT WHEN THE GOZ IS HAMPERED BY LACK OF FUEL, LOW FAZ MORALE, AND CONTINUED DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS.

8. LUBUMBASHI REPORTS SITUATION THERE REMAINS QUIED. CURFEW LIFTED EVENING OF MARCH 12 AND THERE HAVE BEEN ALMOST NO BARRICADES AROUND CITY FOR LAST TWO DAYS. CONSUL ALSO REPORTED THAT REGIONAL COMMISSIONER ASSUMANI AND COMMISSIONER ENGULU CALLED AT HIS RESIDENCE AT 1600Z MARCH 13 TO EXPRESS HOPE THAT ZAIRE'S FRIENDS SUCH AS THE UNITED STATES WOULD STAND BY ZAIRE IN TIME OF NEED. ENGULU ADVISED THE CONSUL THAT MOBUTU WOULD SOON VISIT LUBUMBASHI.

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCS-03 SCA-01
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----------141353Z 023519 /53
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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2285
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASH DC IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER/ECJ4/7 IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
DIA WASH DC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 KINSHASA 2234

9. AS OF 0915Z KOLWEZI REMAINS CALM, AND CURFEW LIFTED AS OF MARCH 13 PM, ACCORDING TO CIS REPORT MARCH 14. MANY FAZ TROOPS ARE MOVING THROUGH THE CITY AND THERE ARE NUMEROUS ROADBLOCKS (REPORTEDLY 13 BETWEEN KOLWEZI AND LUBUMBASHI). THE MILITARY HAS PRE-EMPTED ALL RAIL SERVICE, AND NO INDUSTRIAL TRAFFIC IS MOVING. GECAMINES TRUCKS HAVE ALSO BEEN PRESSED INTO SERVICE BY THE MILITARY. MERCHANTS FROM KOLWEZI REPORT THAT THEIR PRIVATE TRUCKS ARE ARRIVING FROM LUBUMBASHI BUT WITH VERY LITTLE MERCHANDISE. THEY ESTIMATE THAT THEY HAVE STOCKS LEFT FOR TWO WEEKS. ALSO FROM KOLWEZI, IT IS REPORTED THAT THE GECAMINES HOSPITAL IS BEING FILLED WITH WOUNDED SOLDIERS. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT FAZ SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN WARNED THAT DELINQUENT TROOPS WILL BE SEVERELY DISCIPLINED.
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AMERICAN CITIZEN SITUATION:

10. MISSIONARY RADIO IN KINSHASA CONTACTED SANDOA METHODIST MISSION AS SCHEDULED AT 0700Z, MARCH 14. THE TWO AMERICAN METHODIST MISSIONARIES REMAINING AT SANDOA MISSION, FRANK ANDERSON AND STAN MAUGHLIN, REPORT THEY HAD A QUIET NIGHT. NEXT SCHEDULED CONTACT 1030Z, MARCH 14.

11. NO CONTACT SCHEDULED WITH KAPANGA METHODIST MISSION BEFORE 1030Z, MARCH 14. EIGHT AMCIT MISSIONARIES LAST CONTACTED 1050Z, MARCH 12. AT THAT TIME MISSIONARIES WERE ALL WELL.

12. CONSTRUCTEURS INGA-SHABA IN KOLWEZI REPORT THAT AS OF 0915Z, CIS EMPLOYEES LIVING IN TOWN HAVE BEEN MOVED INTO QUARTERS IN THE CIS COMPOUND. AMCIT EMPLOYEES ARE NOT OVERLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION. NO HARRASSMENT BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES

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REPORTED.

PRESS GUIDANCE:

13. SUGGEST FOLLOWING BE ADDED CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE IIC
QUESTION: HOW MANY AMERICANS REMAIN IN SOUTHWESTERN SHABA?
ANSWER: THERE ARE A TOTAL OF 10 AMERICANS IN THE AREA--EIGHT
MISSIONARIES STILL UNDER HOUSE ARREST IN KAPANGA AND TWO
MISSIONARIES WHO ELECTED TO REMAIN IN SANDOA AFTER SEVEN OTHER
AMERICANS WERE EVACUATED SUNDAY.
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TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, PINS, AEMR, CG, AO, FNLC, CONGOLESE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT, (MOBUTU SESE SEKO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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